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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2021 Senate Bill 213**

**Senate Amendment 2**

### 2021 SENATE BILL 213

Senate Bill 213 makes changes to venue for elections law violations. Under current law, an action for violation of chs. 5 to 12, Stats., must be tried in the county where the defendant resides. The bill provides that venue is proper in actions for violations of chs. 5 to 12 in any county within the area covered by any office on the ballot for the election that is affected by the conduct alleged to violate election laws. Under the bill, an action could be brought in any county in the state if a statewide office is on the ballot at the election.

### SENATE AMENDMENT 2

Senate Amendment 2 provides that, in an action for a violation of specific election law chapters, venue is proper in the county where the alleged violation occurred or any county contiguous to that county. Under the amendment, the change to venue applies only to violations of chs. 5 to 9 and 12, Stats., and does not apply to alleged violations relating to election notices or campaign finance.

### BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 2 was offered by Senators Stroebel and Bernier on April 12, 2021. On April 13, 2021, the Senate Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform, and Ethics recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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